

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION  
Olympia, Washington**

**To:** Certified Dietitians  
Managed Care Plans  
CSO Administrators  
Regional Administrators

**Memorandum No:** 02-39 MAA  
**Issued:** June 10, 2002

**For Information Call:**  
1-800-562-6188

**From:** Douglas Porter, Assistant Secretary  
Medical Assistance Administration (MAA)

**Supersedes:** 01-32 MAA

**Subject: Implementation of RBRVS Rates for Medical Nutrition Therapy**

**Effective for dates of service on and after July 1, 2002**, the Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) will implement:

- The updated Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Data Base (MPFSDB) Year 2002 relative value units (RVUs); and
- A legislatively appropriated one and one-half (1.5) percent vendor rate increase. This increase will not be apparent in the rates for medical nutrition therapy, as MAA's previously assigned rates were already higher than the rates established using the RBRVS methodology.

**Maximum Allowable Fees**

In updating the fee schedule with Year 2002 RVUs, MAA maintained overall budget neutrality. The maximum allowable fees have been adjusted to reflect the changes listed above.



**Note:** Last year, MAA assigned flat fees to the Medical Nutrition Therapy procedures, as there were no Medicare-assigned RVUs. However, Medicare has since assigned RVUs to these procedures. Effective for dates of service on and after July 1, 2002, MAA will adopt these RVUs and establish fees using the RBRVS methodology. Due to the change in the fee-setting methodology, MAA will also revise the unit description and unit limitations for group therapy as described on the replacement page.

Attached is replacement page D.1/D.2 for MAA's Medical Nutrition Therapy Billing Instructions, dated September 2001. To obtain this document electronically, go to MAA's website at <http://maa.dshs.wa.gov> (click on the Provider Publications/Fee Schedules link).

Bill MAA your usual and customary charge.



# Coverage/Fee Schedule

## What is covered?

MAA covers the procedure codes listed below when referred by an EPSDT provider.



**Note:** Medical nutrition therapy is a face-to-face interaction between the certified dietitian and a client and/or caregiver. MAA limits initial assessments to 2 hours (or 8 units) per year and reassessments to no more than 1 hour (or 4 units) per day. MAA limits group therapy to 1 hour (or 4 units) per day. MAA reimburses for medical nutrition therapy only when referred by an EPSDT provider.

**Due to its licensing agreement with the American Medical Association, MAA publishes only the official, brief CPT™ procedure code descriptions.  
To view the entire description, please refer to your current CPT book.**

| CPT™<br>Procedure<br>Code | Brief Description                                 | 7/1/02<br>Maximum Allowable Fee                              |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| 97802                     | Medical nutrition, indiv, in<br>1 unit=15 minutes | \$10.47 per unit<br>Maximum of 2 hours (8 units)<br>per year |
| 97803                     | Med nutrition, indiv, subseq<br>1 unit=15 minutes | \$10.47 per unit<br>Maximum of 1 hour (4 units)<br>per day   |
| 97804                     | Medical nutrition, group<br>1 unit=15 minutes     | \$4.10 per unit<br>Maximum of 1 hour (4 units)<br>per day    |

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